United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1244
9 October 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council votes to ban military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina except for United Nations flights.

+ Investigations into alleged fraud in elections in Angola continue; Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola holds separate meetings with President Dos Santos and UNITA leader Savimbi.

+ American civilian taken by Iraqi authorities on Kuwaiti side of demilitarized zone; United Nations attempts to secure his release.

+ Yasushi Akashi, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, says despite some difficulties United Nations is determined to adhere to timetable set for free and fair elections in that country by next May.

+ Immediate crisis in Abkhazia partly due to widespread sabotage and looting in Abkhazia and western Georgia since early this year, according to Secretary-General's report, adopted by Security Council yesterday.

+ Next team of inspectors scheduled to go to Iraq on 16 October; over $10 million pledged for United Nations Guards contingents in Iraq.

+ Russian Federation and Baltic States discuss situation of Russian minorites in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

+ General Assembly will hold four special plenary meetings on Monday and Tuesday, 12 and 13 October, to mark conclusion of United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

* * *

Alarmed at the continuation of military flights over the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council decided today to impose a ban on such flights in the airspace of that country, and requested the United Nations

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to monitor compliance with the ban, including the placement of observers where necessary at the air fields in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The Council's action came at a formal meeting this afternoon, when it adopted resolution 781 (1992) by a vote of 14 in favour to none against, with one abstention (China). The ban does not apply to UNPROFOR flights or other flights in support of United Nations operations, including humanitarian assistance. The Council called on all States to take all measures necessary to provide assistance to UNPROFOR, based on technical monitoring and other capabilities and it asked the Secretary-General to report to it on a periodic basis on the implementation of the resolution. It also said it would "consider urgently the further measures necessary" to enforce the ban on military flights in the case of violations.

Today's resolution comes one day after Muhamed Sacirbey, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, called for enforcement of the "no-fly zone", which was agreed to by all the parties to the Bosnian conflict at the London Conference. Following today's decision, United States Ambassador Edward Perkins said that if the current resolution were violated, his Government would move to seek adoption by the Council of a further resolution mandating enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Speaking to correspondents after the meeting, United Kingdom Ambassador, Sir David Hannay, said the interdiction would start immediately. He said the Council was "not in the mood to permit innocent civilians to be bombed by aeroplanes by any party at all".

* * *

Investigations into alleged fraud in elections in Angola were continuing, and the announcement whether they had been free and fair would be delayed for a few days, a United Nations official told correspondents today. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, had met with President Dos Santos this morning and would meet with UNITA leader Savimbi this afternoon, he said.

Meanwhile, with the lack of acceptance of the results of Angola's elections of 29 and 30 September, the Angolan Foreign Minister, Pedro Castro Van Dunem, told last night correspondents at Headquarters that the Ad Hoc Commission being sent to that country by the United Nations was an important sign that the Organization was continuing to back Angola's efforts towards democratization.

Mr. Van Dunem, who had just concluded talks with the Secretary-General, said the threat of war was serious but stressed that it would be difficult for the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to carry out his threats, as there would be no more assistance from the international community. The Secretary-General has promised the full support of the United Nations in finding a solution to the crisis.

(more)

Last Wednesday, the Security Council, concerned at reports that one of the parties was contesting the outcome of the elections, decided to send the Ad Hoc Commission to Angola to support the implementation of the peace Agreements. A note by Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée of France issued today said Council members had agreed that the Commission should comprise the representatives of Cape Verde, Morocco, the Russian Federation and the United States.

* * *

An American civilian, Chad Hall, was taken by Iraqi authorities on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone between Kuwait and Iraq, yesterday, in an area near Camp Khor.

According to a statement issued at Headquarters today, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) immediately requested the release of Mr. Hall from the Iraqi authorities in Baghdad. The matter was also raised today at Headquarters with the Iraqi Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

* * *

Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative to Cambodia told correspondents today that the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was determined to adhere to the timetable set for free and fair elections in that country by May of next year, despite some difficulties. UNTAC had experienced one major delay in its operations, he said, which was the refusal by Democratic Kampuchea to cooperate with UNTAC with regard to Phase II of the implementation of the Paris Accords, involving the regroupment, cantonment, disarmament and demobilization of the four armed Cambodian factions.

UNTAC could not proceed very far with its disarmament activities because of Democratic Kampuchea's refusal to cooperate, Mr. Akashi said, adding that in the weeks to come, there will be increasing focus on this problem. In the past three days, he had participated in informal discussions undertaken by the two Co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference (France and Indonesia) and the permanent five Security Council Members, in preparation for a Council meeting next week on the issue. There was a consensus of view that the United Nations should adhere to the plan of action leading to free and fair elections next spring, and that no party should be excluded, he stressed.

The electoral law was promulgated by UNTAC after four months of negotiations with the Cambodian parties, and, since 5 October, the registration of voters had started in Phnom Penh without incident, explained Mr. Akashi, adding that UNTAC intended to complete that process by 31 December.

* * *

The immediate crisis in Abkhazia could be attributed to the widespread sabotage and looting in Abkhazia and western Georgia since early this year,

(more)

resulting in loss of millions of roubles and a deterioration of Georgia's relations with the Russian Federation, its main trading partner, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

That was one of the conclusions contained in his report to the Security Council on recent developments in Georgia, on the basis of the visit to the area of a goodwill mission, from 12 to 20 September this year. According to the report, dated 7 October, the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, in the absence of the Georgian representatives, had in August 1990 declared Abkhazia a sovereign republic of the Soviet Union. That move was immediately annulled by the Georgian Supreme Soviet.

In his review of the situation, the Secretary-General wrote that when in mid-1992, the Government of Georgia concluded that the police was unable to control the ongoing sabotage and looting, it decided to send some 2,000 Georgian troops to Abkhazia for the announced purpose of protecting the railway and other communication links. The President of the State Council of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, had emphasized that it was the sovereign right of the Republic of Georgia to relocate troops within its territory. He told the mission that he had told the Abkhaz leader about these arrangements.

Fierce fighting broke out when the Georgian troops entered Abkhazia on 14 August this year, resulting in some 200 dead and hundreds of wounded. Moreover, up to 40,000 people of various ethnic origins in Abkhazia became refugees and displaced persons.

Supported by the Council's action yesterday, the Secretary-General will now send a high-level mission to Georgia, following that country's request. The mission will explore ways in which the United Nations can support implementation of the Moscow agreement of 3 September, including the deployment of civilian and/or military observers. The mission will include several observers who will remain on the spot in order to provide an initial United Nations presence.

The Moscow agreement signed by President Yeltsin and Mr. Shevardnadze and agreed to by the leadership of Abkhazia, ensures the territorial integrity of Georgia, provides for a cease-fire and establishes a Monitoring and Inspection Commission composed of representatives of the three parties, among other things. The leader of Abkhazia told the mission that he had been forced to sign the agreement and accused Georgia of continuing to violate the agreement. He contended the Georgian troops were still involved in attacking civilians as well as in widespread looting.

* * *

A United Nations official confirmed today that there had been an exchange of letters between the Iraqi Government and the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament concerning the next team of inspectors scheduled to go to Iraq on 16 October. The team will be led by Nikita Smidovich, a Russian member of the United Nations, and will comprise about 50 people from 10 different nations with more than one expertise within the team.

(more)

In a separate development, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs announced yesterday that additional pledges of over $10 million have recently been made for the United Nations Guards contingent in Iraq. These include offers of cash contributions of $578,000 by the Netherlands, $327,000 by Luxembourg, $6.5 million by the United States, $1 million by the Commission of the European Communities and $2 million by Japan.

At present, 108 Guards are deployed in Baghdad and in the northern governorates of Iraq. Under the terms of the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, their role consists of providing protection to all staff working under the Programme equipment ansd supplies. Following the recent pledges, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs is expecting an imminent increase in the size of the contingent.

* * *

The issue of the protection of minorities in new sovereign States was raised yesterday afternoon in the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), as it continued its debate on racism and racial discrimination and the right to self-determination.

The Representative of the Russian Federation told Committee members that 25 million people of Russian extraction now found themselves as national minorities in new sovereign States, and hundreds of thousands of them in Latvia and Estonia had been excluded from the political life of those countries. While the Government in Estonia had stressed that its State authorities acted in full compliance with the existing Constitution, he said, one must remember that Nazi repression, the practice of apartheid and the persecution of dissidents in former socialist countries had all been done in strict accordance with effective laws.

The representative of Latvia, speaking also on behalf of the Baltic States of Estonia and Latvia, said that considering the volatility of the transition period to independence and the demographic legacy of 50 years of Soviet occupation, the Baltic States had done remarkably well in managing their diverse population. He added that a mistaken perception had been created that those who had lost their privileges were now being discriminated against.

* * *

The General Assembly will hold four special plenary meetings on Monday and Tuesday, 12 and 13 October, to mark the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Assembly's President Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria will address delegates and special guests, followed by representatives of the five regional groups. Representatives from seven non-governmental organizations that have been particularly active in promoting the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons will also take the floor on this occasion.

* *** *

9999P

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1245
12 October 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Proposals to establish United Nations Operation in Mozambique and to appoint Special Representative to help parties set up machinery to ensure implementation of 4 October Peace Agreement put forward by Secretary-General; Security Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow on Secretary-General's report.

+ Secretary-General, in statement marking Anti-Apartheid Committee's Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, urges those in position of leadership to redouble efforts to end apartheid and join in creation of new future for South Africa; South Africa contends Committee's decision to observe Day "has lost what relevance it may once have had".

+ In Geneva, head of United Nations Humanitarian Affairs and Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia preside over donor's conference; proposals for creation of "trust fund" for peace activities and national reconciliation conference presented.

+ General Assembly begins first day of discussions on conclusion of United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons; expected to adopt draft tomorrow.

+ Chairman of First Committee says bilateral arms reduction agreements have merits but are not the ideal means for making progress in disarmament field; Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs urges close attention to items relating to regionally-based disarmament.

+ United Nations owed some 1.2 billion by Member States for both regular budget and peace-keeping operations; Secretary-General reiterates proposals to alleviate financial crisis.

+ Security Council's Ad Hoc Commission on situation in Angola departs for Luanda.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ Security Council welcomes efforts by Secretary-General to resolve problems impeding implementation of settlement plan in Western Sahara and intention to explore possibility of further meeting of tribal chiefs.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint a Special Representative for Mozambique who will travel to Maputo, as soon as appointed, in order to help the parties in that country to set up the joint machinery to ensure the implementation of the General Peace Agreement of 4 October. In the meantime, an interim Special Representative will be in overall charge of the United Nations activities in Mozambique.

In addition, based on the Special Representative's report, the Secretary-General will recommend to the Security Council the establishment of a United Nations Operation in Mozambique (UNOMO) to carry out functions envisaged for the United Nations in monitoring and assisting the implementation of the Peace Agreement. That Agreement was signed by President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique and the leader of the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO), Afonso Macacho Marceta Dhlakama, at the beginning of this month.

According to a report by the Secretary-General to the Security Council, dated 9 October, the Mozambican President has asked the United Nations to undertake a major role in monitoring the Agreement, including functions relating to the cease-fire, the elections -- scheduled for October 1993 -- and humanitarian assistance. With regard to the elections, the Organization has been asked to both monitor the electoral process and provide technical assistance. The United Nations has also been asked to provide chairpersons for the two Commissions which will be supervising the cease-fire and the reintegration of demobilized personnel.

Once appointed, the Special Representative will be supported by a team of up to 25 military observers and necessary administrative support staff, who will be sent to Mozambique in the coming days. The Representative will be asked to report back to Headquarters at the earliest possible date and the Secretary-General will base his recommendations to the Council on that report for the deployment of UNOMO.

The Security Council held consultations today with a view to a formal meeting on the report of the Secretary-General on Mozambique.

* * *

In his statement marking today's observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners by the Special Committee against Apartheid, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali urged those in positions of leadership to "redouble their efforts to end the agony which apartheid has produced and to join in creating a new future for South Africa".

(more)

The struggle of political prisoners had not been in vain, he said, adding that the ideology of apartheid had been defeated and its evils recognized. He welcomed the decision of the South African Government to release those held in prison on political grounds, but pointed out that although that Government had now accepted that apartheid was "discredited and unsustainable", the struggle was not over yet.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also emphasized that eliminating the "blood brothers" of apartheid and violence was part of the same process. The United Nations was inspired by the suffering of those who had fought against apartheid and was determined to press ahead towards building a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa, he said, noting that that was also the aim of the Conference for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) process. Twenty-eight United Nations observers were now in South Africa, working in areas where political violence and confrontation was most severe, he said. However, he added, the responsibility for achieving a just and long-lasting agreement through negotiation must rest with the South Africans themselves.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali expressed hope that this would be the last meeting devoted to solidarity with South Africa's political prisoners. If the underlying reason for such meeting has not disappeared by 1993, the entire process of reconciliation would be open to question and the entire future of South Africa would be threatened, the Secretary-General said.

In a related development, South Africa today stated that the decision of the Special Committee Against Apartheid to observe the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners was "an issue that had lost what relevance it may once have had", and urged the Committee to "desist from activities which suggested that it was failing to keep track of developments".

A press release today from the Permanent Mission of South Africa quoted a letter to the Secretary-General dated 8 October, contending that the Anti-Apartheid Committee had previously expressed satisfaction with the Government's prisoner release programme in its statement on 1 October.

Under a Record of Understanding reached on 26 September, the Government had demonstrated its willingness to bring about national reconciliation and a comprehensive political settlement in South Africa and had addressed "finally and comprehensively" the issue of political prisoners, the letter said. By its terms, the prisoner release process was expected to be completed before November 15, and any prisoners identified after that date shall be released, the letter said.

* * *

Somalia was a country without central, regional or local administrations and without any public utility services, no electricity, no communications, no health services or schools -- a country in which "anarchy prevails" -- Mohammed Sahnoun, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia told today the first donor's conference devoted to Somalia in Geneva .

(more)

In a review of the United Nations humanitarian assistance to Somalia, Mr. Sahnoun noted that "a whole year slipped by", as the Organization and the international community, apart from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and a few NGOs, "watched Somalia descend into this hell". While stating that "the damage will not be repaired", he noted that it should be incombent upon the United Nations to look back and seriously investigate the reasons for "failure to act promptly".

Security remained the major problem for the effective delivery of humanitarian supplies to the millions of starving Somalis, Mr. Sahnoun said. In addition to the 500 United Nations security personnel who had been deployed in Mogadishu, the faction leaders in the Northeast had signed an agreement for the deployment of another 750 United Nations troops to provide security at the port of Bossaso and to ensure the delivery of food and rehabilitation assistance to the whole of that region. Negotiations were currently under way with the political leaders in the so-called "Somaliland" for the deployment of security personnel at the port of Berbera and also with the leaders of the South for the same operation at the port of Kismayo. That port, Mr. Sahnoun noted, was important for the emergency relief in the South and should have had, with Mogadishu, the priority concern from the beginning.

With regard to the disarmament of the population and the demobilization of irregular forces, the Special Representative proposed the creation of a trust fund to encourage the formation and activities of organizations with a vested interest in peace, such as Elders Councils, youths movements and women's organizations. He also proposed the convening of a national reconciliation conference as soon as possible to facilitate the reconstruction and restoration of economic activity. Mr. Sahnoun expressed the hope that before the end of the year all the parties, movements and factions would participate in such a conference.

To accelerate vitally required relief efforts and pave the way for eventual recovery of the Somali society, the United Nations and NGOs have agreed to take immediate action with the 100-Day Action Programme for Accelerated Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia. The plan includes massive infusion of food aid; provision of basic health services and a mass measles immunization campaign; urgent provision of clean water, sanitation and hygene; simultaneous delivery of seeds, tools and animal vaccines with food rations; and prevention of further refugee outflows and promotion of returnee programmes.

The Conference in Geneva was presided over by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, and Mr. Sahnoun.

* * *

The General Assembly began today the first day of discussions of the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The Assembly had before it the Secretary-General's report and a draft text which it is expected to adopt tomorrow.

(more)

On Friday, 9 October, the Assembly took up the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace" during its debate on the work of the Organization. Delegates expressed support for the creation of a peace-keeping reserve fund of $50 million, a $50 million humanitarian fund, and a peace endowment fund to meet the increasing financial requirements for major peace-keeping operations.

The representative of the United States, Alexander Watson, said that while his Government supported the creation of the reserve fund, it could not accept the Secretary-General's proposal that the Assembly appropriate one third of the estimated costs of a peace-keeping mission as soon as the Security Council decided to establish an operation.

Operating on a rotating basis, the reserve fund could help absorb the steep initial costs of starting a peace-keeping operation, he said, and would then be replenished from the inflow of Member State assessments for that operation. The United States might consider the idea of accelerated appropriations on a case-by-case basis when the reserve account was not adequate to meet needs, he said.

Several speakers in Friday's debate called for the establishment of a working group to study the "Agenda for Peace" proposals which include the increased use of fact-finding missions, preventive deployment of troops and increased reliance on peace-making measures and post-conflict peace-building.

* * *

Although bilateral arms reduction agreements had their merits, they were at present not the ideal means by which to make progress in the disarmament field, Nabil Elaraby (Egypt), Chairman of the General Assembly's First Committee (Political and Security) told delegates this morning, as the Committee began its substantive debate on various disarmament and international security issues.

Nuclear weapons threatened all States, he said, stressing that all members of the international community must participate, on an equal footing, in establishing the required mechanisms for the elimination of such weapons. It should be a global endeavour which guaranteed a fair balance between rights and obligations without any double standards in the implementation process, he said.

The United Nations could play a role, particularly in ensuring the universality of disarmament agreements, Mr. Elaraby said, urging a multilateral dialogue aimed at strengthening mutual confidence and collaboration among all nations as a necessary step in laying the foundations of peace. The regional approach to disarmament was also important, he said, as it would take specific characteristics of each region into consideration, thus making such agreements more effective.

This morning, the Committee also heard from Vladimir Petrovsky, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who observed that if the

(more)

Committee came to an agreement on its next steps in connection with the draft chemical weapons convention and the Register of Conventional Arms, it would be a major leap forward in furthering the cause of arms control and disarmament. He also urged close attention to items relating to regionally-based disarmament and confidence-building measures as means to preventive diplomacy.

* * *

The United Nations is currently owed some $1.2 billion for both the regular budget and peace-keeping operations, according to the latest report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the Organization's financial situation. Describing the outlook as "bleak", the Secretary-General stressed that at least $400 million must be collected between now and the end of the year. "Otherwise, the regular budget and all of the peace-keeping operations will run out of money simultaneously", he said, urging Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

The persistent difficulties of the United Nations were becoming "politically incongruous and increasingly damaging to the implementation of mandated programmes", the report warned, pointing to the fact that financial problems absorbed an amount of time and energy that would be better used to address the intellectual and ethical issues that confront the Organization.

The largest debtors are the United States with a total of some $295 million in outstanding contributions - following the two payments made by that country on Friday, 9 October, totalling $229 million - followed by the Russian Federation with $138 million, South Africa with $49 million and Brazil with $33 million.

In his report, the Secretary-General reiterated his proposals to charge interests on the amounts that are not paid on time; to be allowed to borrow commercially; and to impose a levy on arms sales and international air travel, among other things.

* * *

The Ad Hoc Commission established by the Security Council to support the Angola Peace Agreement left New York for Luanda on Friday, 9 October. It met yesterday with UNITA leader Mr. Savimbi, and this morning with President Dos Samtos.

The Commission is composed of four Security Council members, José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde; Ahmed Snoussi of Morocco; Valentin V. Lozinskiy of the Russian Federation, and Edward J. Perkins of the United States.

The Council established the Commission last week concerned at reports that one of the parties to the Agreements was contesting the validity of the recent elections in Angola. In a statement on behalf of Council members, Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée (France) called upon all the parties "to respect the obligations they had assumed within the framework of the Peace Agreements, and in particular the obligation to respect the final election

(more)

results". Any challenge to the results, the statement added, "must be settled through the mechanisms established for that purpose".

* * *

The Security Council has welcomed the efforts by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and his Special Representative to resolve the problems impeding the implementation of the settlement plan in Western Sahara, in particular the intention to explore with the parties the possibility of a further meeting of tribal chiefs.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 8 October, the President of the Council emphasized the urgency of the pending questions being settled, in particular the "interpretation of the criteria for inclusion in the voters' lists", so that the implementation of the plan might begin as soon as possible.

The members of the Council also stressed their approval for the Secretary-General's proposal to maintain the existing deployment and staffing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1245/Corr.1
14 October 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

CORRECTION

In the Monday Highlights of 12 October (Press Release DH/1245), the third item on page 1 should read as follows:

"In Geneva, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia presides over donor's conference; proposals for creation of 'trust fund' for peace activities and national reconciliation conference presented."

The penultimate paragraph on page 4 of the same Press Release should read as follows:

"The Conference in Geneva was presided over by Mr. Sahnoun."

* *** *

For information media—not an official record

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1246
13 October 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously endorses proposal by Secretary-General to appoint interim Special Representative for Mozambique and to dispatch 25 military observers to that country.

+ In second unanimous decision this afternoon, Council demands that Democratic Kampuchea immediately fulfil its obligations under Paris Agreements and facilitate full deployment of United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia in areas under its control.

+ Armenia calls for urgent meeting of Security Council to consider crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh; asks for designation of special representative and deployment of United Nations observers to area to assist in bringing about lasting cease-fire; Security Council holds consultations on request.

+ Saddened by tragedy of earthquake that struck Egypt yesterday, Secretary-General investigates ways in which United Nations can help local authorities.

+ Need for further measures to integrate disabled persons into society stressed by speakers, as General Assembly wraps up commemorative meeting marking end of Decade for Disabled Persons.

+ Philippines asks for inclusion of additional item in General Assembly agenda on emergency assistance to that country; request follows recent eruptions of Mount Pinatubo volcano causing extensive damage.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon unanimously endorsed a proposal by the Secretary-General to appoint an interim Special Representative for Mozambique and to dispatch 25 military observers to that country as put forward in his report of 9 October.

The Council took that action by adopting resolution 782 (1992), in which it said it looked forward to a new report of the Secretary-General on the

(more)

For information media—not an official record

establishment of a United Nations Operation in Mozambique (UNOMO), including in particular a detailed estimate of the cost of the operation.

Addressing the Council after the vote, the representative of Mozambique said the Council's decision to send the first group of 25 observers to his country was of "paramount importance" for Mozambique, as it would ensure respect for and the succesful implementation of the Peace Agreement. Under that agreement, three main Commissions would be chaired by the United Nations: the Commission to supervise and to control the implementation of the Agreement; the Commission on the cease-fire; and the Commission on reintegration. The holding of the cease-fire, which de jure should enter into force on 15 October, largely depended on the work of these bodies and the adequate and active presence of United Nations observers in the field, he said.

In his report of 9 October to the Council, the Secretary-General said he would appoint immediately an interim Special Representative for Mozambique who would be in overall charge of United Nations activities in support of the Agreement signed by the President of Mozambique and the leader of the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) on 4 October in Rome.

The Mozambican President had asked the United Nations, in a letter of 4 October, to undertake a major role in monitoring the Agreement, including functions relating to the cease-fire, the elections, which are scheduled for spring 1993, and humanitarian assistance. With regard to the elections, the United Nations has been asked to both monitor the electoral process and to provide technical assistance.

It was later announced that Aldo Ajello of Italy has been appointed interim Special Representative for Mozambique.

* * *

The Security Council has unanimously demanded that the party of Democratic Kampuchea immediately fulfil its obligations under the Paris Agreements and facilitate without delay the full deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in the areas under its control.

The Council's action came in the second of two meetings this afternoon when it adopted resolution 783 (1992). The Council expressed deep concern over the difficulties faced by UNTAC, caused in particular by security and economic conditions in Cambodia, and noted that by cooperating with UNTAC, the three other Cambodian parties had met their obligations under the Paris Agreements.

The text reaffirmed that UNTAC must have full and unrestricted access to the areas controlled by each of the parties and demanded full respect for the cease-fire, calling upon all parties in Cambodia to cooperate fully to identify minefields and to refrain from any activity aimed at enlarging the

(more)

territory under their control. The Council further demanded that the parties facilitate UNTAC investigations of reports of foreign forces, foreign assistance and cease-fire violations within their territory.

By the resolution, the Council confirmed that the electoral process be carried out in the timetable laid down in the implementation plan, and that the election for a constituent assembly be held no later than May 1993. It expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan and Thailand for their efforts to find solutions to the current problems and urged them, in cooperation with the co-Chairmen, to continue their efforts and to report to the Secretary-General and the co-Chairmen on the outcome.

By tonight's text the Council also asked the Secretary-General to report back to it no later than 15 November on the implementation of this resolution, and said that if the present difficulties are not overcome, it would consider what further steps were necessary to ensure the realization of the objectives of the Paris Agreements.

* * *

Armenia has appealed to the United Nations to "lend its vast experience and established mechanisms" to bring about and implement a lasting cease-fire agreement in the Nogorno-Karabakh conflict. The country has called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, saying the Armenian Government believes that this is the appropriate time for the direct involvement of the United Nations.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 12 October, Armenian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Alexander Arzoumanian, specifically requested that the Secretary-General designate a special representative for the area as soon as possible and that a team of observers be sent to the region to "assist the parties in reaching a cease-fire agreement and monitor the situation thereafter".

The letter charged serious and continuing violations of the cease-fire agreement, negotiated by representatives of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and the Defence Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, which was to have become effective on 26 September. If effective mechanisms were put in place, the agreement could be successfully implemented, the letter said.

The Armenian request follows a Presidential Statement by the Security Council on 26 August, in which Council Members said they would consider further the role of the United Nations in Nagorno-Karabakh in light of the developements in the area.

* * *

Deeply saddened and grieved by the tragedy that struck Egypt yesterday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is currently investigating ways in which the United Nations system can help the Egyptian authorities to alleviate the effects of the earthquake.

(more)

His Spokesman told correspondents this morning that the Secretary-General had sent a message of sympathy to the Egyptian Prime Minister, in which he offers such assistance. The President of the General Assembly had also sent a message of sympathy to the Government and people of Egypt for the "tragic loss of life and extensive material damage" that resulted from yesterday's earthquake.

* * *

Persons with disabilities should be given real opportunities to participate in the formation of society, the Minister of Social Affairs of Norway, Grete Knudsen, told the General Assembly's special session today, as delegates and special guests wrapped up the two-day special plenary to mark the conclusion of the Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

Outlining aspects of her Government's four-year plan of action, the Norwegian Minister said her country had focused on the participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in planning and decision-making in those areas of society where such persons were significant consumers of services. In order to ensure participation in community planning, Norway had encouraged all communities and cities to establish local councils on disability and develop local plans for the integration of persons with disabilities.

The representative of the Philippines, Leticia Ramos Shahani, said hers was perhaps the only country which had enacted as part of its Constitution, a provision for the protection of the disabled. She attributed the increase of persons with disabilities in her country to endemic poverty factors, the effects of the insurgency war and natural disasters. The recent wave of calamites, such as the Mount Pinatubo volcano eruptions and mudflows and tidal waves, had unleashed untold suffering for peasants and tribal people, fisherfolk and poor communities, she said.

In an opening statement to the Assembly yesterday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called for broad action to meet the objectives of equality and full participation for disabled persons in society. War was a major cause of disablement and mines were of particular danger, he said. Many of those who voted in last week's elections in Angola, for example, had suffered war injuries. The United Nations had to work both to prevent the situations which cause war and to assist the victims of war and the disabled to play their full part in society, he said.

The Decade was launched by the General Assembly in 1983 to increase international awareness of environmental and social barriers to full integration of disabled persons into society, and has stressed as a guiding philosophy a shift away from charity towards integrated social development. The Assembly is expected to adopt a draft text on the matter at its final meeting today.

* * *

(more)

The Philippines has asked for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the General Assembly's 47th session, entitled "Emergency assistance to the Philippines". The request follows the most recent eruptions of the Mount Pinatubo volcano, compounded by three successive typhoons that have caused extensive damage in the country.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 7 October, the Philippino Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Narcisa L. Escaler, said urgent international assistance was vitally needed to alleviate the effects of the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo vulcano which continued to "wreak havoc and destruction in Central Luzon". The gravest and immediate threats to life and property came from flows and flash flooding of heavily silted rivers, exacerbated by a spate of typhoons that have struck the northern Philippines, the letter said.

The most recent eruptions had spawned lahar flows and flash floods that had left, as of 9 September, 36 people killed, 10 injured, 15 missing and some 940,000 people displaced. As of 5 October, total crop damage amounted to over 5 billion pesos.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1247
14 October 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Underscoring importance of full implementation of Angola Agreements and integrity of electoral process, Ad Hoc Commission appeals to all parties to "safeguard peace achieved after years of devastating war".

+ Secretary-General, in message to mark International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, says access to new, early-warning technologies is most effective way to reduce losses in disaster-prone countries.

+ Leader of Bosnian Serb delegation offers to remove all combat aircraft from territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, according to statement by Co-chairmen of Conference.

+ Commission of Experts to investigate humanitarian violations in former Yugoslavia will work closely with Special Rapporteur of Commission on Human Rights, Secretary-General says in report to Security Council.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, Dick Thornburgh, draws attention to chasm between tasks entrusted to United Nations and financial means provided, as Fifth Committee begins current session.

* * *

The Ad Hoc Commission sent to Angola to support the implementation of the Peace Agreements for that country issued a statement in Luanda yesterday, underscoring the importance of full implementation of those Agreements, including the integrity of the electoral process. The statement further appealed to all parties to "safeguard the peace achieved after years of devastating war". The Commission was set up by the Security Council in response to reports that one of the parties to those Agreements was contesting the validity of the recent elections.

By the statement, which was read out to the press by José Luis Jesus, Permanent Representative to the United Nations of Cape Verde, the Commission said all claims of irregularities in the elections must be investigated and results made public. It noted with grave concern the recent increase in acts

(more)

For information media—not an official record

of violence and the rising level of tension in the country and welcomed assurances given by leaders of the two main parties to restore and further consolidate the Angolan armed forces.

The Security Council had sent the four-member Ad Hoc Commission to Angola to signify the Council's strong commitment to the peace accords for Angola and to the ongoing peace and democratization process in the country. The Commission has met with the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, and with President Jese Eduardo Dos Santos. It also met with Foreign Minister Pik Botha of South Africa.

* * *

The most effective way to reduce losses from natural disasters in disaster-prone countries was by facilitating their access to new, early-warning technologies. That view was expressed today by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his message to mark the observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction.

The Day represented a welcome and timely shift in emphasis from post-disaster relief assistance, to a more proactive role in pre-disaster planning and prevention programmes, he said. A strengthened coordination of efforts and strategies between all involved in development and relief work was essential, he said, in order to achieve a reduction in the loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also stressed the linkage between natural disaster reduction and sustainable development--a priority issue for the community of nations. Precious development resources were lost when a disaster wiped out the products of investment and reduced the production of goods and services, he said. Development was also negatively affected when ongoing programmes had to be interrupted to allow for a shift to short-term programmes of recovery and emergency response. This situation, the Secretary-General said, was particularly painful to poor countries which had not yet achieved sustainable levels of economic development. It was highly appropriate that the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction should be observed under the theme of "Natural Disaster Reduction for Sustainable Development" this year, he said.

* * *

The leader of the Bosnian Serb delegation, Dr. Karadzic, has offered to remove all his combat aircraft from Banja Luka airfield and from the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), as a sign of its desire to achieve a cessation of hostilities and to facilitate the implementation of Resolution 781, according to a statement today by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Yugoslavia.

(more)

Following a meeting with Lord Owen yesterday, 13 October, Prime Minister Panic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia confirmed this agreement "under a special bi-lateral agreement" to accept the aircraft on his country's airfields.

Observers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will be present on the airfields, the statement said. An UNPROFOR representative will also travel to Banja Luka with a high level representative of the Federal Republic's airforce to work out the practical arrangements on the ground.

The Co-Chairmen have been urgently discussing concrete steps which may be taken to achieve a cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and pursuing measures in the Mixed Military Working Group under the Chairmanship of UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, General Morillon.

Cyrus Vance, one of the two Co-chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, told correspondents today following his briefing of Council that there had been progress in the talks with the parties to the conflict, in particularly in Prevlaka. He welcomed the holding of a meeting tomorrow to discuss modalities for the movement of the planes that are to be taken out of Bosnia and Herzegovina and expressed hope for more progress in the future.

* * *

The Commission of Experts set up by the Security Council to investigate violations against international humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia will work closely with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights in order to minimize the duplication of effort, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In his report to the Council, dated 12 October, the Secretary-General states that the Commission will be composed of five members, one of whom will be designated as its Chairman. It will be located at the United Nations Office at Geneva and will, to the extend possible, rely on the resources already made available to the Human Rights Special Rapporteur. In view of the urgency attached to the matter, the Secretary-General will appoint Commission members as rapidly as possible.

The Commission was set up by Security Council resolution 780 (1992) of 6 October to examine and analyze the information submitted by States and international humanitarian organizations on violations of international humanitarian law. It will also obtain information through its own investigations. The Commission will then report to the Secretary-General on its conclusions on the evidence of grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of former Yugoslavia. The expenses of the Commission of Experts will be met, as far as possible, from existing resources.

* * *

(more)

Dick Thornburgh, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, has drawn attention to the chasm between the tasks entrusted to the United Nations and the financial means provided to it, as the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) began its substantive work for the current session yesterday.

The efficient management of the Organization required that steps be taken to address the shortage of funds to meet expenses and the continuing uncertainty about the availability of funds in the immediate future, he said. Mr. Thornburgh noted in particular, the financial demands of peace-keeping activities which, at $2.5 billion in 1992, represented the single most costly programme ever undertaken by the United Nations, and announced that the major contributor to all budgets had last week paid the bulk of its share of the regular budget-- $229 million -- and that the third largest contributor had this week paid $18 million.

The Committee also began its joint consideration of the current financial crisis and emergency of the United Nations and the financing of peace-keeping operations, hearing yesterday from the representatives of Norway Martin Huslid (on behalf of the five Nordic countries), who said it was difficult to justify to domestic public opinion the heavy Nordic contributions to the peace-keeping and regular budgets when those countries were owed many times over that amount for their services in peace-keeping operations and when other countries were not paying their dues.

Also speaking was the representative of Cameroon, Chuinkam Simon Khoam who said the proposal to charge interest on arrears in assessed contributions would penalize countries willing to pay but unable to do so, while condoning those countries able to pay but unwilling to do so for political reasons.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1248
15 October 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expresses "great emotion" over tragic incident which cost life of Ukrainian "blue helmet" and injured three other Ukrainian soldiers at Sarajevo.

+ Security Council announces its support for decision of Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, to maintain inspection in Iraq; expresses concern for safety of United Nations inspectors there.

+ Secretary-General sends fact-finding mission to Latvia to investigate alleged discriminatory practices against minorities in that country.

+ Prime Minister Milan Panic of Yugoslavia urges Security Council to approve import of heating oil and other oil products to meet urgent civilian needs; says his Government will eliminate causes for sanctions against that country.

+ General Assembly begins two-day meeting to observe tenth anniversary of adoption of Plan of Action on Ageing; Secretary-General, in opening statement, says population ageing is challenge to world society as much as to national societies.

+ Permanent Observer of Palestine to United Nations, drawing attention to Palestinian prisoners in occupied territory on hunger strike, calls on Security Council to take actions to end continuous breaches of 1949 Geneva Convention by Israel.

+ Questions of Jammu and Kashmir and crisis in Kosova, discussed in Third Committee, as it concludes debate of racial discrimination and right to self-determination.

+ Germany creates office of Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid; appoints to that position Hansjorg Eiff, former Ambassador to Belgrade.

* * *

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Security Council has expressed deep sympathy to the family of the member of the Ukrainian batallion of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) who lost his life on 10 October, and to the Government of the Ukrainian Republic.

In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimée (France), the Council also expressed "great emotion" on learning of the tragic incident in which three other Ukrainian soldiers were seriously wounded at Sarajevo. Members also expressed their very grave concern at the continuation of hostile actions against members of UNPROFOR.

* * *

The Security Council has announced its support for Rolf Ekeus, the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, and his decision to maintain Commission's inspection in Iraq, while at the same time expressing its concern for the safety of the United Nations inspectors there. The Council was briefed this afternoon by Mr. Ekeus on the work of the Special Commission.

In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimée, the Council said Mr. Ekeus had drawn its attention to press reports of a high-level statement made in Iraq which would "constitute a threat" to the security of United Nations inspectors. Council members urged Iraq to fully cooperate with the Special Commission and seize opportunity to demonstrate its willingness to comply fully with the Council's resolutions.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send a fact-finding mission to Latvia to investigate alleged discriminatory practices against minorities in that country. The decision is in response to a request by Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia.

According to a United Nations official today, the Secretary-General has asked Ibrahima Fall, Director of the Centre for Human Rights, to head the mission, which will leave as soon as Mr. Fall returns from a mission in Africa where he is now.

* * *

With winter approaching, Prime Minister Milan Panic of Yugoslavia has urged the Security Council to approve the import of quantities of heating oil and other oil products to meet urgent civilian needs and has assured the Council that his Government will take steps to eliminate the causes for the imposition of sanctions against that country.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 7 October, Mr. Panic expressed his Government's readiness to oversee the use of the oil products to ensure that they were not used for any other purposes. "It would be a terrible tragedy for the elderly, sick and children if it were impossible

to ensure the heating of hospitals, schools and other similar institutions, including the heating of refugee centres, he said. Nearly 875,000 tons of oil and oil products, which Yugoslavia cannot supply from its own production, will be required, he said.

The Security Council imposed mandatory sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by its resolution 757 of 30 May. That resolution calls for an embargo of all Yugoslav products and commodities, financial and economic contacts, sports contacts and scientific, technical and cultural exchanges, except for supplies for humanitarian purposes and foodstuffs.

* * *

This morning, the General Assmebly began two days of plenary meetings to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of an international plan on ageing and to consider a set of targets for the year 2001.

In his statement to the Assembly, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said population ageing was an unprecedented demographic phenomenon which had far-reaching ramifications and was a challenge to the world society as much as to national societies. The last decade had raised the question of ageing in new terms. Previously, particularly in developed countries, ageing had been hidden, while it was held in greater regard in traditional societies. Perhaps one of the major objectives of the programme for the next decade would be to make that a more universal conception, he said.

The Assembly yesterday proclaimed 3 December as the International Day of Disabled Persons, ending two days of debate marking the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983 - 1992).

Also yesterday, the Assembly continued its debate of the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" and his report on the Work of the Organization. Among the issues discussed were the crucial role of preventive diplomacy and the size, composition and function of the Security Council. The representative of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, said those countries had serious misgivings about the use of force in peace-keeping. Collective enforced action should be used only as a last resort with the approval of the Assembly. The call for the creation of a United Nations standing armed forces was "premature".

The representative of Vanuatu said his country wished to proceed with great caution in endorsing proposals that would allow overt intervention by developed countries into the affairs of developing countries for the selective promotion of certain aspects of human rights. It was not healthy for the situation of international democracy if a small group of countries made all of the major decisions involving peace and security for the entire international community.

(more)

Other speakers called for an enhanced role for the General Assembly and greater utilization of the International Court of Justice in the settlement of disputes.

* * *

Nasser Al-Kidwa, the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, has called on the Security Council to take actions to put an end to continuous breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 committed by Israeli authorities and the suffering of Palestinian prisoners in the occupied territory.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 12 October, Mr. Al-Kidwa reported that several Palestinian protesters, who had been demonstrating in solidarity with thousands of Palestinian prisoners who are on a hunger strike, had been killed and some 200 wounded by Israeli troops. The hunger strike was undertaken on 27 September after the prisoners had exhausted all other means of calling attention to their grievances, the letter said.

* * *

The issue of self-determination for Jammu and Kashmir had been brought to the United Nations almost 45 years ago and still remained unresolved, the representative of Pakistan told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) yesterday, as it concluded its debate on the issues of racial discrimination and the rights of people to self-determination.

The Representative of India pointed out that the principle of self-determination did not apply here since Jammu and Kashmir were an integral part of a sovereign country and would remain so.

Also addressing the Committee yesterday, the Representative of Albania said the crisis in Kosova had become a "time bomb". The shocking war in the former Yugoslavia had actually started 10 years ago, he said, waged against Albanians, who constituted the third largest population in former Yugoslavia. The crumbling of Yugoslavia was due to the oppression of the absolute Albanian majority in Kosova by Serbia. Serbia's policy there gave Kosova Albanians only one recourse:leave Yugoslavia. The final stage would be independence, he said.

The Representative of Austria pointed out that, while self-determination was one of the most influential legal principles of the century, there had been no definition of the principle, which had to be approached on a case-by-case basis.

* * *

(more)

The Government of Germany has created an office of a Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and has appointed as its first Commissioner, former Ambassador to Belgrade, Hansjorg Eiff.

According to a press release issued today by the German Permanent Mission to the United Nations, the task of the Commissioner will be to coordinate the measures of humanitarian aid taken by the Federal Government, non-governmental German aid organizations and other donor countries. His responsibilities will include ensuring that German humanitarian aid is used as effectively as possible.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1249
16 October 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council, concerned over information provided by Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, says it will hold those who hamper deployment of United Nations Operation responsible for aggravating "unprecedented humanitarian disaster".

+ Secretary-General to send mission to Solomon Islands following request by Government of that country to investigate incident on border with Papua New Guinea in which two citizens of Solomon Island were killed in mid-September.

+ United States calls on General Assembly to request that Board of Auditors further investigate serious abuses cited in its current report.

+ Egypt asks United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs to launch appeal for aid to earthquake victims through United Nations Disaster Relief Organization.

+ United Nations official says Secretary-General has spoken with UNITA leader, Jonas Savimbi, about reported election irregularities in Angola.

+ International Organization for Migration granted observer status by General Assembly.

+ Human Rights Committee to hold forty-sixth session at Geneva from Monday, 19 October, to 6 November.

* * *

The Security Council has expressed deep concern over information it received this evening at a briefing by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Mohamed Sahnoun, and in particular the difficulties he has faced in the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

According to a statement issued on behalf of the Council members by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimée of France, the rapid deployment of personnel of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) constituted a

(more)

For information media—not an official record

prerequisite. The Council considered that "those who would hamper the deployment of UNOSOM would be responsible for aggravating an already unprecedented humanitarian disaster".

The Council reiterated its full support for the action of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative and expressed the wish that the recent appeal in Geneva for an increase in the humanitarian assistance to Somalia be heeded.

Speaking to correspondents after briefing the Council, Mr. Sahnoun explained that a large part of the humanitarian aid was reaching the people deep inside Somalia, especially through the airlifts, stressing that the problem was securing the ports.

Mr. Sahnoun emphasized that a strong message should be sent to the Somali faction chiefs who should be held responsible for any delay of humanitarian assistance and of deployment of the troops. "The Somalis must understand that they have to meet us halfway if they want humanitarian assistance to go to their people", he said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has agreed to send a mission to the Solomon Islands following a request by the Government of that country, a United Nations official said today. The mission will be led by Mian Qadrud-Din, Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo.

The mission was requested in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, dated 17 September, from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Solomon Islands, in connection with two incidents on its border with Papua New Guinea, in which two citizens of the Solomon Islands were killed. The exact date of the mission's arrival was currently under discussion with the Government of the Solomon Islands, the United Nations official said.

* * *

Larry Pressler, a member of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called yesterday on the General Assembly to request that the Board of Auditors conduct an expanded audit of United Nations accounts for the biennium 1990-1991 to further investigate serious deficiencies and abuses identified in its current report. "Without improved performance and measurable progress towards accountability and efficiency, Congress will find it more and more difficult to fund United Nations programmes", Mr. Pressler said.

In his statement to the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), which is currently debating the United Nations financial reports, Mr. Pressler said the expanded audit should explore the problems cited in such areas as programme management, use of staff resources, payment of staff allowances and benefits, and procurement and property management. The expanded audit should include a 100 per cent audit of

(more)

education grants, dependency allowance, housing subsidies and tax reimbursement payments, he said.

On the financial crisis of the United Nations, Louise Fréchette of Canada said non-payment by many Member States had placed an unjust burden on those that did meet their obligations. Unless those obligations were met, she said, "we cannot expect the Secretariat to be very effective in meeting the demands of Members if it has to live from hand to mouth".

Over the summer, she went on, a working group had examined the issue of providing incentives to Member States to pay. A number of interesting ideas had emerged, but in the end it came down to a question of will. It was shocking that only one third of United Nations Member States had paid their regular budget assessment and fewer still their regular and peace-keeping dues.

* * *

The Government of Egypt has asked the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) to launch, through the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO), an appeal for international assistance for the victims of the earthquake which hit Cairo on 12 October.

According to a press release issued yesterday, the United Nations Office in Geneva estimates that almost 500 people were killed and thousands injured in the earthquake. Tens of thousands of people were left homeless in several districts of Cairo when houses and buildings collapsed. The Egyptian Prime Minister indicated that the immediate priority was to provide emergency shelters to those whose houses had collapsed and underlined the urgent need for temporary shelters, tents and blankets.

DHA-UNDRO has made an emergency cash grant of $550,000 for local purchase of relief items and has sent two experts in search and rescue operations to Cairo. The Agencies are cooperating with the Italian Government in organizing emergency airlifts. Also, the United Nations Disaster Management Team, which is composed of representatives of international agencies in Cairo, has set up two inter-agency committees for close monitoring of the emergency and rehabilitation needs.

* * *

A United Nations official announced today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had been in contact with the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi, concerning alleged election irregularities during the recent United Nations supervised elections. The Secretary-General told Mr. Savimbi that a second round would be held if "certain figures" in the number of votes counted were not reached.

The four-member of the Ad Hoc Commission sent to Angola to support the implementation of the Peace Agreement was on its way to New York and was

(more)

expected to brief the Security Council upon return.

* * *

The General Assembly decided this morning to invite the International Organization for Migration to participate in its sessions and work in the capacity of observer.

A 66-Power resolution to that effect was adopted without a vote. It was introduced by the Representative of Sweden, who said the action would contribute to a more efficient division of labour in allocating the necessary resources to deal with migrants, refugees and displaced persons.

* * *

In Geneva on Monday, 19 October, the Committee on Human Rights will begin its examination of reports of measures taken by Burundi, Senegal, Venezuela, Luxembourg, Tanzania, Niger and Iran to promote and protect human rights, as it holds its forty-sixth session.

The 18 human rights experts will examine State reports in the presence of the State representatives, who are expected to reply to questions and to take down and submit to their Governments recommendations on ways to improve the implementation of civil and political rights. The Committee is also expected to consider any further contributions it might wish to make to the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna next June.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1250
19 October 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council welcomes announcement by Special Representative for Angola that elections in that country were "generally free and fair"; is awaiting recommendations of Secretary-General on contribution of United Nations to completing Presidential elections; both sides meet today in Luanda to discuss modalities for second round of elections.

+ Agreement reached in principle on renewal of Memorandum of Understanding for United Nations humanitarian programme in Iraq; Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission to begin emplacement of first boundary pillar in south end of Wadi Al Batin early this week.

+ Contact Group of Organization of Islamic States calls for Security Council meeting to consider lifting of arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina and steps to enforce "no-fly zone".

+ Azerbaijan protests request by Armenia for designation of Special Representative and deployment of United Nations observers to that region, saying request will delay attainment of peace.

+ President of CARE, USA, appointed operational manager of United Nations 100-Day Action Programme for accelerated humanitarian assistance for Somalia; cross-border operation begins repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina contends troops of former Yugoslav People's Army, which were to have withdrawn from Dubrovnik region and Prevlaka Peninsula under supervision of UNPROFOR, are now entering its territory north and north-west of Dubrovnik.

+ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia asks Secretary-General to prevent possible decision to forbid that country's participation in work of Economic and Social Council.

+ Croatia and Yugoslavia agree to exchange lists of prisoners, provide information on people missing during conflict and facilitate return of displaced people.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ General Assembly decides that 1999 will be International Year of Older Persons, as it concludes international conference marking tenth anniversary of adoption of International Plan of Action on Ageing.

+ Third Committee hears statement by Director-General of United Nations Office at Vienna as it begins debate on social development issues.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights tells Committee of his concern that violations continue to escalate despite measures.

+ World Food Day -- dedicated as reminder of basic right to safe, healthy food -- observed in more that 140 nations around world.

* * *

The Security Council this evening issued a statement welcoming the announcement on 17 October by Margaret Anstee, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, that the recent elections in that country can be considered to have been generally free and fair.

The statement was issued following a briefing this evening of the Council by the Ad Hoc Commission which visited Angola from 11 to 14 October to support the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The Council expressed gratitude to the four-member Commission and welcomed its contribution to reducing the tension in Angola and to finding a solution to the difficulties that arose after the elections of 29 and 30 September.

The statement once again called upon the parties to abide scrupulously by the commitments entered into within the framework of the Peace Agreements, in particular with regard to the demobilization of their troops and formation of the Unified Armed forces, and to refrain from any action that could increase the tension.

The Council said it looked forward to the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the United Nations to ensure the smooth completion of the Presidential elections and said it would act without delay on the basis of those recommendations.

According to a United Nations official, both sides in Angola met today in Luanda to discuss and agree to modalities for a second round of elections in that country, as runoff must occur 30 days after announcement of election results. The results were officially announced on Saturday, 17 October, with President Dos Santos in receipt of 49.57 per cent of the votes and the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi, of 40.07 per cent.

In her statement on Saturday, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, declaring the elections held on 29 and 30 September "free and fair", urged all Angolans and all Angolan political

(more)

leaders, as well as the international community, to respect and support the results of this stage of the electoral process. A further certification would be made after the second round of the Presidential election, she said.

The National Electoral Council had established four commissions to investigate the complaints and allegations on the spot, as a result of complaints by UNITA and other organizations that there had been widespread, massive and systematic irregularities and fraud during the entire electoral process. Ms. Anstee said that in the light of the above mentioned facts and observations, and after considering very carefully the concerns and views expressed by all the Angolan parties, as well as by other international observers, the United Nations considered that "while there were certainly some irregularities in the electoral process, these appear to have been mainly due to human error and inexperience".

* * *

An agreement has been reached in principle on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the United Nations humanitarian programme in Iraq for six months, a United Nations official said today.

The negotiations, which took place on 16 and 17 October in Baghdad between the United Nations and Iraqi authorities, included talks on the winter programme for northern Iraq. The United Nations was represented by James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Qazi Shaukat Fareed, Director in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

The official said details of the agreement were being submitted today to the Secretary-General for his consideration.

In a related development, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, which just ended its seventh session in New York, will hold its next session in early December at which time it will continue its consideration of the Khowr Abd Allah section of the boundary. At its latest session from 12 to 16 October, the Commission authorized experts to gather further information for its decision on that section of the boundary. It also heard a report on the manufacturing of the boundary pillars, the installation of its survey team and the arrangements made to finalize the construction and emplacement of boundary pillars and markers. The Commission expects to begin emplacement of the first pillar in the south end of the Wadi Al Batin early this week.

* * *

The Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic States has called for an immediate meeting of the Security Council "to consider and secure" the lifting of arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to consider steps to secure the effective enforcement of resolution 781 (1992) which established a "no-fly zone" over that country.

(more)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representatives of Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Turkey quote the view put to them by the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haris Slajdzic. Because of the great disparity between the armaments available to the Serbian side and the Government forces, he had said, the situation on the ground was becoming increasingly difficult. They write that "if the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina had more adequate means to repel aggression, the likelihood of achieving a peaceful and just solution through negotiations would be greatly enhanced."

They also cite violation by the Serbian side of the of the Council's "no-fly zone" resolution as necessitating consideration of steps needed to secure its enforcement.

* * *

The Government of Azerbaijan has protested the request by Armenia last week for the designation of a Special Representative and the deployment of United Nations observers to that region, saying it was "an attempt to shift" the negotiating process into a new framework which could "only delay ... the attainment of peace in the region".

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 15 October, the Azerbaijani Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Hassan Hassanov, said the Protocol signed on 25 September in Moscow concerning the arrangements for the cease-fire and the deployment of the observers from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan to the conflict zone were already being carried out. The Armenian request, he said, has "disregarded" those documents and has made a proposal for a "parallel arrangement for settlement of the conflict". He warned that the Armenian approach would lead to an extension of the negotiating process and would further conplicate the already complex situation in the region.
Document S/24671

* * *

The United Nations today announced the appointment of Dr. Philip Johnston, President and Chief Executive Officer of CARE, USA, to serve as operational manager of its 100-Day Programme for accelerated humanitarian assistance for Somalia, until the end of 1992.

According to a United Nations official, the appointment of Dr. Johnston, whose services were offered to the Organization by CARE, "the world's largest relief organization", was intended to bring about "optimal coherence between the programmes and activities of the non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and other institutions concerned, and to strengthen the United Nations support of the many humanitarian aid organizations in Somalia".

In a separate development, in a press release today, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that a UNHCR convoy carrying more than 700 returnees, together with food and water, arrived Friday, 16

October, in the Somali city of Tulo Barwago from Mandera, Kenya. It was part of a cross-border operation aimed at reducing refugee flows and helping people to return home.

Some 300,000 Somali refugees had crossed into Kenya in the past 18 months and hundreds of the estimated 50,000 refugees in Mandera, many from Tulo Barwago, had asked UNHCR to help them return home. The previous week, UNHCR had sent a team to Tulo Barwago, together with Somali elders, to assess conditions for such a return and to pre-position food and water. On Friday, three trucks set out from Mandera on the 60 km journey to Tulo Barwago, with 738 refugees, water and 14 metric tons of wheat flour.

The agency has identified another 10 to 15 towns and villages to which refugees could return if security conditions permit. Working with UNHCR in assessing the returnees needs and providing the cross-border assistance are Torcaire, an Irish non-governmental organization, and the International Rescue Committee.

* * *

The acting President of Bosnia and Herzegovina has issued a protest saying that the troops of the former Yugoslav People's Army, which were to have withdrawn from the Dubrovnik region and the Prevlaka Peninsula under supervision of forces from United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), were now entering its territory north and north-west of Dubrovnik. The Yugoslav People's Army had disregarded the agreements at the Geneva session of the London Conference by which the UNPROFOR observers were to monitor the withdrawal.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 15 October, the Acting President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ejup Ganic, further protested the intensified use by the aggressor of helicopters for the transfer of troops and ammunition, recalling Council resolution 781 (1992) which prohibits all military flights over the Bosnian territory, including the use of helicopters.

The aggressor has so far broken all of the promises made to the London Conference six weeks ago, Mr. Ganic said. He called on the international community to "finally act decisively in the former Yugoslavia, and refuse to allow itself to be used as a devious tool of aggression and "ethnic cleansing". Document S/24675

* * *

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has asked the Secretary-General "to do everything in his power" to prevent the possible decision to forbid that country's participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council, saying such a decision would have a negative impact on economic activities in its country.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 15 October, Milan Pa[illegible], the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, said his countr[illegible]had

expressed its surprise at and disagreement with what it terms the "ever more frequent instances" in which it was being denied the right to participate in the organs of the United Nations other than Assembly bodies after the decision by the General Assembly that the country not participate in its work.

In a related development, the Croatian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mario Nobilo, said in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 14 October, that "there is no doubt" that the decision of the General Assembly "also applies to the work in all of the Committees of the General Assembly". He added that the circulation of a document by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was "a clear act of active participation" and therefore a breach of the provisions of the Assembly's resolution.
Document A/C.1/47/6 and A/47/532

* * *

Delegations from the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, meeting in Geneva yesterday, agreed to exchange lists of names of the prisoners they are still holding, in order to pave the way for their release. According to a press release issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today, they also agreed to provide each other with all the information they have concerning people reported missing during the conflict, and to facilitate the return home of displaced persons and refugees.

The ICRC, at whose headquarters the meeting was held, called on the parties to proclaim an amnesty for all offences, other than war crimes, committed during the conflict. That would include desertion and the refusal to bear weapons. The ICRC praised the fact that Croatia had decreed such an amnesty and said it expected Yugoslavia to pass similar legislation, in accordance with an agreement between the parties concluded in Budapest on 7 August.

* * *

The General Assembly has decided that 1999 will be the International Year of Older Persons. The decision, part of the Proclamation on Ageing, was adopted without a vote on Friday as the Assembly concluded an international conference that marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The Proclamation also urged support for national initiatives on ageing, in the context of national cultures and conditions, so that national policies for the elderly could be seen as part of States' overall development strategies. Targets on ageing for the year 2001 were examined and several speakers stressed the responsibility of society as a whole in ensuring the active participation of the aged, to prevent their marginalization.

Speakers criticized contemporary society's focus on youth, arguing that the experience and wisdom of the elderly were valuable national assets. They

(more)

also warned that with improved longevity and lowering birth rates, care for the aged was going to become an increasingly onerous burden on succeeding generations.

* * *

Social progress entailed the creation of societies that "put a safety net under and an opportunity ladder within reach of everyone", said Giorgio Giacomelli, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna today, as the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee) began its discussion of social development issues.

Mr. Giacomelli said that until recently, the focus in the United Nations had been on economic issues and progress in social concerns had been seen as a by-product of economic progress. However, he said, this traditional notion seemed to have been partially overridden, due to the "internationalization" of such issue as transborder crime, drug trafficking and the movement of displaced persons and refugees.

The Third Committee was therefore expected to discuss concerns of the elderly, disabled persons, youth and the family, in addition to the matters pertaining to the role of cooperative to combat crime.

* * *

The Human Rights Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, began its forty-sixth session at Geneva today by adopting its agenda and programme of work for the first week of its three-week session.

Addressing the 18-member Committee, the Under-Secretary General for Human Rights, Antoine Blanca, voiced the Secretary-General's concern that despite the adoption of measures to combat human rights violations, they were continuing to escalate at an alarming rate. The Secretary-General had proposed, among other things, that those abuses be brought to the attention of the Security Council in order to curb the trend. Mr.Blanca then gave an account of the issues that marked the various human rights-related meetings which had taken place since the Committee on human rights last met.

* * *

More than 140 nations around the globe marked on Friday, 16 October, the annual World Food Day dedicated to the theme of "Food and Nutrition" and as a reminder of the basic right of all people to safe and healthy food.

Speaking at a special observance at FAO headquarters in Rome, the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh said "no country, no Government, can accept life sentences in the form of hunger and malnutrition for its people". She urged "national and international solidarity to banish hunger and poverty" and

(more)

called for a grand alliance of peoples, Governments and international organizations to make the "nightmare" of human deprivation and degradation a thing of the past.

In his statement, the FAO Director-General said that nutrition is "fundamental" and essential for a healthy, thriving human being and recalled that "raising levels of nutrition" is the first of the major functions that FAO is assigned by its constitution.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1251
20 October 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Presidents of Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina meet in Geneva with Co-Chairmen of International Conference to intensify efforts to bring peace to former Yugoslavia.

+ Administrative Committee on Coordination begins second regular session at Headquarters to consider, among other issues, report of inter-agency Task Force established to deal with United Nations response to Rio Conference.

+ Germany would seek permanent seat in Security Council if changes in Council's composition were to be considered, says Germany's Representative in Sixth Committee.

+ United Nations Commissioner for Refugees announces selection of President of Germany as winner of 1992 Nansen Medal for his commitment to promoting acceptance of refugees and fighting xenophobia.

+ Fourth Committee is told that United Nations plan on Western Sahara must be implemented to ensure self-determination and prevent return of war.

+ Support for convening world conference on human settlements in 1996 expressed in Second Comittee.

* * *

The Presidents of Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina have been holding a series of meetings for the past two days in Geneva with the two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

According to a United Nations press officer based in Geneva, Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic agreed yesterday "on the need to bring all the armed elements and para-military groups in Bosnia under effective control". They agreed that United Nations

(more)

For information media—not an official record

observers should be stationed on military airfields and on their common border as soon as possible.

Today, the Co-Chairmen held a meeting with President Cosic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, attended by the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Satish Nambiar. Following the meeting, General Nambiar told the press that troops were being withdrawn from the Dubrovnik area today, as scheduled, and that the United Nations flag was flying in the Prevlaca Peninsula.

* * *

The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) began this morning its second regular session at Headquarters with a private meeting between the Secretary-General and the heads of the United Nations agencies. The ACC, which is made up of the different bodies, agencies and programmes in the United Nations system, meets twice a year.

According to the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills, the first item of business this afternoon would be the consideration of a report of an inter-agency Task Force established under the Chairmanship of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Eduard Saouma, which deals with the Organization's response to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and specifically Agenda 21. Secondly this afternoon, the ACC would discuss its own role and functioning as a coordinating body.

* * *

Germany would seek a permanent seat in the Security Council if changes in the composition of the Council were to be considered, Germany's Representative, Ernst K. Martens, told the Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday.

He also called on the regional organizations to assume greater responsibility in the peaceful settlement of disputes. The United Nations could not protect all those affected by external and internal wars. In Europe, for example, it was up to the Europeans to "put their common house in order", he said.

The Representative of Singapore, Zainal Arif, said expansion of the Security Council should not be allowed to impair its efficiency. Instead of the veto power, he proposed that all Council decisions be made by an affirmative vote of the members, including the concurring vote of three of the five permanent members.

The Committee is continuing its consideration of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

* * *

(more)

President Richard von Weizsacker of Germany was named today as the winner of the 1992 Nansen Medal, for his commitment to promoting the acceptance of refugees and fighting all forms of xenophobia. The announcement was made by the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, Chairman of the Nansen Committee, who said that his "unwavering stand against intolerance is deeply appreciated by all of us who work on behalf of the world's more than 18 million refugees".

The Nansen Medal, instituted in 1954, is named after the Norwegian diplomat and explorer, Fridtjof Nansen, who was the first High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations. The award is intended to focus attention on the plight of refugees and give new impetus to international support for displaced people.

The UNHCR, in a press release on Dr. von Weizsacker's selection, said that in granting the award to the President of Germany, the Nansen Committee also recognized the generosity of the German people who for years had received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees.

In a speech on 3 October, German National Day, Dr. von Weizsacker said, "Racist, anti-Semitic aggression strikes us with indignation. Those who pretend to resort to such violence in the interest of Germany abuse the name of our nation."

* * *

The United Nations Western Sahara settlement plan must be fully implemented to ensure the realization of self-determination by the people of the Territory as well as prevent the return of war and instability to that region of Africa, speakers told the Fourth Committee (Decolonization Committee) yesterday.

In statements before the Committee, petitioners said Morocco had reneged on its agreement to implement the plan and that recent events in Western Sahara had heightened fears that the plan might collapse. A representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) called upon the leaders of Morocco "not to miss the historic" occasion presented by the settlement plan for the Territory.

* * *

Endorsing the proposed convening of an international conference on housing and human settlements in 1996, the Representative of Pakistan today told the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) that the proper management of human settlements was essential to attain the overall goals of sustainable development as well as to assure a basic human right. He spoke on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries.

(more)

Offering to host the proposed conference, the Representative of Turkey said housing should not be seen from a limited, North-South perspective, especially as the developing countries had much to offer the developed world in the area of human settlements.

Also today, the Second Committee began consideration of resolutions concerning large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on high seas and Japan said his country intented to take the necessary measures to implement the global moratorium on it by 31 December.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1252
21 October 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Agreement on Memorandum of Understanding reached between Iraq and United Nations; Secretary-General says in letter to Security Council President that although agreement does not fully meet United Nations' aspirations, it should be signed and implemented without further delay.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports relief convoys virtually halted in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to attacks and harassment on vital roads.

+ Presidents of Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia agree to ease tension and normalize relations with a view to bringing about peaceful solution to conflict in region.

+ Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament reports that Iraq has not met the conditions for "the initiation in full of the plan for ongoing monitoring" of that country's weapons sites.

+ President of Bosnia and Herzegovina proposes "immediate cease-fire" in towns of Gradacac, Broko, Maglaj and Jajce and asks that UNPROFOR observers be dispatched there to monitor cease-fire; European Community will speed up its assistance to region and establish task force to support efforts of UNHCR.

+ Secretary-General says award of 1992 Nobel Prize to Rigoberta Menchu recognizes her struggle for human rights and indigenous people's right.

+ United Nations Scientific Committee, according to 36-Power draft approved by Special Political Committee, to be asked to continue review of problem of atomic radiation doses and report to next session of General Assembly.

* * *

According to a United Nations spokesman today, agreement has been reached on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for United Nations humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

In a letter to the President of the Security Council on the outcome of the talks on the MOU, the Secretary-General stated that, while the agreement did not fully meet the United Nations' aspirations, he believed it was necessary that it be signed and implemented without further delay. He would continue his efforts to strengthen the United Nations presence in Iraq, the Secretary-General said.

The official said it was expected that the agreement would be signed shortly by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, on behalf of the Secretary-General, and by the Iraqi Ambassador.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, announced yesterday that transportation of relief supplies by road to Sarajevo and central Bosnia and Herzegovina had come to a virtual halt due to fighting along vital routes and attacks on aid convoys. She expressed anger and frustration over "the deliberate shelling and harassment" of UNHCR trucks. Shelling incidents, checkpoint delays and new fighting had all but shut down convoy operations from Split to Sarajevo, along the crucial all-weather Mostar road.

Mrs. Ogata said attacks on the convoys last Friday were yet another example of the failure of the various parties in the conflict to live up to their commitments. The incidents had taken place as she was meeting with the leaders of the warring parties, and just hours after UNHCR Special Envoy, Jose-Maria Mendiluce, had obtained agreements of safe passage for convoys on the Mostar route. Mrs. Ogata said the attacks called into question the authority and ability of representatives from the various sides to negotiate and to carry out agreements.

In the country as a whole, this winter some 1.6 million people will be needing a total of 9,226 metric tons of emergency supplies each week. Last week only 1,133 metric tons reached them by air and land.

* * *

The President of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) agreed yesterday on a series of steps to intensify efforts to bring about a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

The joint statement, which was signed by President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and President Dobrica Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, followed a day of talks in Geneva with the two Co-Chairmen of the international peace conference, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. It is the second such agreement signed by Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in one month committing both sides to work for peace -- the first was signed on 30 September. A similar statement was signed on Sunday, 19 October, by President Cosic and the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic.

(more)

According to the joint statement, the two Presidents have agreed to establish liaison offices in each other's capitals, Belgrade and Zagreb, with a view to ensuring conditions for a normalization of their relations. The liaison offices will coordinate work on all open questions between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including reopening of roads, rail and telecommunications links, as well as re-establishing international links across the two countries. The offices will also resolve matters of personal property, pensions and remittances.

The two Presidents further reaffirmed their agreement of 30 September to facilitate the return and resettlement of displaced persons as soon as possible. They urged all parties to the conflict to end hostilities and to begin negotiation of constitutional arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of agreement between the three Republics.

With respect to the delivery of humanitarian aid, President Cosic said the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had made the necessary preparations for the secure delivery of such aid along the Belgrade-Sarajevo route.

* * *

The Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament has reported to the Security Council that Iraq has not met the conditions for the initiation in full of the Commission's plan for ongoing monitoring of that country's weapons sites. The Commission was set up under the Security Council's resolution 687 (1991) to verify Iraq's compliance with the Council's demand for "full, final and complete" disclosure of all its weapons programmes, including weapons of mass destruction.

In its report, dated 19 October, the Special Commission said there had been no movement in Iraq's underlying position regarding its compliance with the Council's resolutions. Iraq continously sought to ensure that the implementation of the plan was proceeding "on the basis of its interpretation of its obligations, rather than on the basis of Security Council resolutions".

For the time being, the report said, the Commission remained constrained from going beyond preparatory work into full-scale monitoring and verification until it was clear that Iraq would comply with such monitoring "on the Council's, not Iraq's terms".

A team of some 50 inspectors of the Special Commission arrived in Iraq over the weekend to begin a two-week multi-disciplined weapons inspection of Iraqi sites. The inspection is the 45th of its kind to be sent to Iraq by the Commission.
Document S/24661

* * *

(more)

The President of Bosnia and Herzegovina has proposed "an immediate cease-fire" in the vicinity of the towns of Gradacac, Broko, Maglaj and Jajce, and has asked that observers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be dispatched there as soon as possible to monitor the cease-fire.

The proposal was contained in a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 18 October, in which the Bosnian President said the aggressor was continuing with heavy attacks on the four towns, "leading to the genocide of the civil population and an enormous ecological catastrophe, since every object was being shelled".

In another letter to the Council President, dated 18 October, the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, said the only remaining mill in Sarajevo had been destroyed by incendiary rockets launched by Serb forces besieging the city. "On Tuesday", he said, "there will be no more bread in Sarajevo." In a subsequent letter, dated 19 October, Mr. Sacirbey informed the Council that Sarajevo was still without water, electricity and heating fuel, as the aggressor's forces continued to use electricity and water services as "weapons of war against the innocent civilian population of the city".

The European Community (EC), in a declaration circulated as a United Nations document on 19 October, agreed that "immediate and decisive action was needed in the face of the impending major human tragedy in the former Yugoslavia as winter approached". According to the Declaration, the EC will speed up its assistance of food and medicines and will immediately provide further staff and resources to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The twelve European nations also decided to immediately establish a task force to support the efforts of the UNHCR and to appoint a personal representative to supervise that operation. Document S/24682, S/24685, S/24689, S/24677

* * *

In a message of congratulations sent to Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala, winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the award was a richly deserved recognition of her struggle for human rights and for the rights of indigenous peoples everywhere.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated further that, as the United Nations looked forward to the International Year of Indigenous Peoples and prepared for the World Conference on Human Rights, this award would be an inspiration to the United Nations in its work. It would also draw attention to the plight of Guatemala, which he hoped, would pursue with renewed vigour, its efforts toward peace and democratization.

* * *

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), in a 36-Power draft resolution approved by the Special Political Committee this morning, would have the General Assembly commend the

Scientific Committee for its contribution, over 37 years, to the expansion of knowledge about atomic radiation.

The draft would also have the Assembly request the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important coordinating activities, to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources.

The representative of Poland, during the Special Political Committee's debate on the effects of atomic radiation, said the international recognition and authority of UNSCEAR had stemmed from its impartiality, objectivity and considerable degree of independence. That independence had recently been threatened by the initiative to merge UNSCEAR with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Neither organization, he added, was in favour of the merger, as their mandates were quite different.

* *** *